



NEWS & INFORMATION

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July 10, 2009

For Immediate Release

12-09

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IUB/OCA building to serve as model for energy efficiency and green energy

Construction of a highly energy efficient demonstration office building to be located on the Capitol Complex at the corner of E 14th and Court Avenue in Des Moines has been announced by the Iowa Utilities Board (IUB) and the Office of the Consumer Advocate (OCA). This 44,000 square foot building will house more than 90 employees of the two agencies. It is modeled to consume 62 percent less energy than a typical office building that is compliant with the Iowa Energy Code and an onsite photovoltaic renewable energy source will reduce its energy use even further.

IUB Chair Rob Berntsen and Consumer Advocate John Perkins made today's joint announcement.

"This building will be a model for cost-effective use of energy and other green resources and will serve as an educational example to others," said Berntsen.

The State will seek the highest certification, LEED Platinum, from the U.S. Green Building Council. The building was designed and will be built using strategies aimed at improving performance in areas of energy savings, water efficiency, CO₂ emissions reduction, improved indoor environmental quality, and stewardship of resources and sensitivity to their impacts. The building will use geo-thermal technology for heating and cooling, a daylight harvesting sunscreen, and the photovoltaic solar panels.

"Iowa is a leader in both energy technology and efficiency," said Governor Chet Culver. "The new IUB and OCA building is a prime example of the state's commitment to the development of facilities that are energy efficient, which also means we are fiscally efficient."

Construction bids were recently opened and reviewed and the state has issued a notice of intent to award the contract to the lowest bidder, J. P. Cullen of Janesville, Wisconsin. The bid with selected options totals about \$9.8 million dollars. Construction could begin within 60 days with the building available for occupancy by the end of 2010. Architects for the project are BNIM Architects of Des Moines.

(MORE)

“By focusing on making the building as efficient as possible and generating much of the building's energy needs using renewable resources, we are highlighting Iowa's commitment to both our economy and our environment” stated Roya Stanley, Director of the Iowa Office of Energy Independence.

The building will replace leased space occupied by the two agencies for the past 11 years. Twenty-year bonds are being sold to pay for construction costs, and over the expected life of the building there will be savings in lease, energy, and other operating costs compared to the present situation.

The IUB is a full time three-member panel appointed by the Governor to oversee rate, service reliability, technical, and safety standards of energy and telecommunications service providers in the state. The Office of Consumer Advocate is part of the Attorney General's Office and represents the general interests of consumers in matters before the IUB. By state law, the two agencies are required to be co-located in the same facilities.

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Editor's Note: [Click here](#) to view or download an architectural rendering of the new IUB/OCA building.